

BPL will result in the Free Net.

I suspect the most dangerous result of Broadband over Power Lines will be the creation of what I will call "Free Net," a completely uncontrolled and uncontrollable system of computer controlled radios.

A BPL modem is a digital HF radio. Marketing of these will result immediately in the availability of the information and the software and hardware to make them into efficient computer to computer connections using the international radio spectrum. As is well known the radiation of RF energy is a function of radiator dimensions. The ISPs will lose any control, and may be prevented from even functioning when the Free Net saturates the spectrum. Because of the number of radios involved, regulation will be impossible. Connecting these radios to purpose built antennas and amplifiers is too simple to prevent this from happening. The technology is well known and documented.

My personal experience in international standards work over decades has made me very suspicious of manufacturers and business interests versus the public interests. I retired from Du Pont as a Senior Consultant with 40 years of service. I served as Convenor of IEC/TC65/SC65B/WG6, "Digital Fieldbus" for years. I was also chairman of the ISA SP50 addressing the same issues during this time. Agreement was impossible because of manufacturer opposition to standardization while they all claimed to have the best technical basis and be in favor of the public good. In the interests of full disclosure, I am also an Amateur Radio operator licensed as K5HAL since 1956 and presently focus on training for emergency communications.